

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please substitute the amended version of Figures 4 and 5 enclosed herewith for the originally filed versions thereof. In amended Figure 4, the circle in the candidate flag column has been removed from the row containing the 2-Itemset "CD" (i.e. the fourth row), and a circle has been added in the candidate flag column in the row containing the 2-Itemset "BC" (i.e. the second row).

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Figure 4 and line 30 on page 8 (see the amendment to paragraph 0033 above) have been revised to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) as mentioned by the Examiner.

The originally filed claims 1-21 have been cancelled without prejudice and new Claims 22-39 have been added. It is hoped that the Examiner will agree that the new claims successfully address the 35 U.S.C. 112, 102(e), and 103 (a) issues raised by the Examiner in the Office Action.

With respect to the 35 USC 112 issue, the new claims include definitions. The minimum support value (min_supp) appears to be a concept which the Examiner well understands given the fact that the Examiner noted the aforementioned error in Figure 4.

In the Office Action the Examiner cited the following references:

A. U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0097367 by Ma et. al., entitled SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR PAIRWISE ANALYSIS OF EVENT DATA, (referred to as "Ma" hereinafter).

B. U.S. Patent 6,278,998 by Ozden et. al., entitled DATA MINING USING CYCLIC ASSOCIATION RULES, (referred to as "Ozden" hereinafter).

The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 22-39 are patentable over the cited art. The Applicant believes that the limitation regarding *calculating a second weighted frequency of the first itemset for both a prior and a current partitions by increasing a first weighted frequency, where the first weighted frequency is calculated for the prior partition, and the current partition comprising all the current transactions is established later than all the prior transactions of the prior partition* is not taught by the cited art. That is, for a 2-itemset, the frequency result of the prior partition

(i.e. the first weighted frequency) is carried into the calculation of a weighted frequency for both the prior and current partitions. Furthermore, Ma and Ozden teach nothing at least about *calculating a second weighted min_supp value for both the prior and current partitions by increasing a first weighted min_supp value, where the first weighted min_supp value is calculated for the prior partition*. That is, for the 2-itemset, the threshold of the prior partition (i.e. the first min_supp value) is carried into the calculation of a threshold for both the prior and current partitions. Ma and Ozden do not teach or suggest the above claimed characteristics because the disclosed transactions are not organized into time-variant partitions. Rather they appear to have the same shortcomings as the prior art mentioned in the introductory paragraphs of the present application.

For the reasons stated above, it is Applicant's belief that Ma and Ozden do not teach or suggest all the limitations of new independent claims 22 and 31. It is therefore Applicant's belief that new independent claims 22 and 31 are patentable over the cited references. Insofar as all other claims depend from claims 22 and 31, it is Applicant's belief that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the application and the timely allowance of new claims 22-39.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

Response to Official Action

Dated 6 November 2006

Re: USSN 10/829,309

Page 14

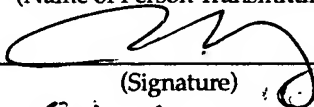
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Office with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

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(Date of Transmission)

Richard Berg

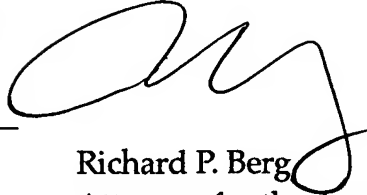
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(Signature)

Feb 6, 2007

(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



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